



PERGAMON

Computers and Mathematics with Applications 45 (2003) xv

An International Journal
**computers &
mathematics**
with applications

www.elsevier.nl/locate/camwa

Preface

The theory of difference equations, the methods used in their solutions, and their wide applications have advanced beyond their adolescent stage to occupy a central position in applicable analysis. In fact, in the last 12 years, the proliferation of the subject is witnessed by hundreds of research articles and several monographs, many international conferences and numerous special sessions, and a new journal as well as several special issues of existing journals, all devoted to the theme of difference equations. Now, even those experts who believe in the universality of differential equations are discovering the sometimes striking divergence between the continuous and the discrete. There is no doubt that the theory of difference equations will continue to play an important role in mathematics as a whole. It is hoped that this collection of 48 papers, which encompasses most of the areas of research on difference equations, should be leading to new directions.

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